

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 04337 161223 Z

45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-19 T-03

PRS-01 GAC-01 SAJ-01 RSR-01 NIC-01 /123 W
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R 161035 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8757
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARAW
USDEL FRANCE

S E C R E T SAIGON 4337

E. O. N/A

TAGS: NARR VS

SUBJECT: TALK WITH NDP DEFENSE CRITIC ROWLAND

REF: OTTAWA 574

1. PRESUMABLY ACTING ON SUGGESTION CONTAINED PARA 6 REFTEL, NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE CRITIC DOUG ROWLAND ASKED TO MEET WITH BRADDOCK AND JOHNSON IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL WITH EXTAFF MIN SHARP.

2. DURING MEETING, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN HIS HOTEL ROOM, ROWLAND APPEARED TO BE SEARCHING FOR A RATIONALE FOR CANADA'S CONTINUED PRESENCE IN ICCS OTHER THAN ICCS'S FORMAL CEASE- FIRE MISSION. MISSION OFFICER, THOUGH NOT RPT NOT DISCOUNTING DUTIES UNDER THE AGREEMENT, EMPHASIZED VITAL INTERMEDIARY ROLE ICCS COULD PLAY SHOULD VIETNAMESE PARTIES PROGRESS TOWARD POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. THEY ALSO EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION THUS FAR IN SETTING UP AND OPERATION OF ICCS, AND DIFFICULTIES FOR CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF ICCS SHOULD CANADA WITHDRAW. REGARDING WORK OF THE ICCS, MISSION OFFICERS SUGGESTED THAT HE TALK TO

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 04337 161223 Z

VON NOSTIWITZ WHILE IN CAN THO.

3. ROWLANDS DID NOT RPT NOT BRING UP QUESTION OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES OR ANY ICCS ROLE REGARDING THIS OR OTHER " HUMANITARIAN" CAUSES. HE SUGGESTED THAT FINAL CANDIAN DECISION ON WHETHER TO STAY OR PULL OUT WOULD BE BASED NOT RPT NOT ONLY ON SITUATION IN VIETNAM AND ICCS' S ROLE BUT ON NECESSITIES OF CANDIAN/ AMERICAN RELATIONS. HE APPEARED TO HAVE NO DOUBT THAT USG STRONGLY DESIRED THAT CANDA NOT RPT NOT WITHDRAW. HE STATED THAT GOVERNMENT WAS IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION IN PARLIAMENT ON THE SUBJECT AS PC' S HAD GUARDED THEIR OPTIONS AND COULD CRITICIZE WHATEVER DECISION THE GOVERNMENT MADE. HE DID NOT RPT NOT GO INTO WHAT EVER PRESSURES PRO OR CON THE NDP MIGHT FEEL.

4. MEETING WAS VERY FRIENDLY AND INFORMAL. MISSION OFFICERS WERE LEFT WITH IMPRESSION THAT ROWLAND, THOUGH CRITICAL OF EFFICIENCY OF ICCS AND CANDA' S ROLE IN IT, DID NOT RPT NOT WANT CANADA TO WITHDRAW AT THIS TIME.

5. DURING SEPARATE CONVERSATION LATER SAME DAY WITH ANOTHER EMBOFF, ROWLAND APPEARED GRATIFIED TO LEARN OF RECENT MUSHROOMING NUMBER OF ICCS INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESPONDED APPRECIATIVELY TO EMBOFF' S PRAISE OF CANDIAN PERFORMANCE TO DATE.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON04337
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 73 OTTAWA 574
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730331/aaaahxkq.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 OTTAWA 574
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <17-Oct-2001 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971211
Subject: TALK WITH NDP DEFENSE CRITIC ROWLAND
TAGS: MARR, n/a
To: BUDAPEST
EA
FRANCE
JAKARTA
OTTAWA
SECSTATE WASHDC
VIENTIANE

WARAW

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005